

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request that the above-identified application be reexamined.

In the Office Action mailed March 21, 2007 (hereinafter "Office Action"), Claims 25-35 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as being directed to nonstatutory subject matter. Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 8-15, 17-19, 21-30, and 32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 7,028,056, issued to Hendel et al. (hereinafter "Hendel et al.") Claims 3, 7, 16, and 20 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim were indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Rejection of Claims 25-35 Under 35 U.S.C. § 101

As indicated above, Claims 25-35 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101. In response, applicants have amended Claim 25. Claims 26-35 depend from Claim 25 and are allowable for at least the same reasons as why Claim 25 is allowable. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the 35 U.S.C. §101 rejection and allowance of Claims 25-35.

Rejection of Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 8-15, 17-19, 21-30, and 32 Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

As indicated above, Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 8-15, 17-19, 21-30, and 32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Hendel et al. While applicants respectfully disagree with the rejection of Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 8-15, 17-19, 21-30, and 32 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e), Claims 3, 7, 16, and 20 have been rewritten in independent form in order to advance the prosecution of this application.

Specifically, Claim 3 has been canceled and the subject matter thereof has been added to independent Claim 1, the claim from which Claim 3 depended. Thus, Claim 1 is now Claim 3 rewritten in independent form, including all the limitations of the base claim (Claim 1) and any intervening claims (none). Claim 16 has been canceled and the subject matter thereof has been added to independent Claim 14, the claim upon which Claim 16 depended. Thus, Claim 14 is now Claim 16 rewritten in independent form, including all the limitations of the base claim

(Claim 14) and any intervening claims (none). Hence, applicants submit that independent Claims 1 and 14 are allowable. Claims 2, 4-6, 8-13, 15, 17-19, 21-30, and 32 depend from Claims 1 and 14, respectively, and are allowable for at least the same reasons as why Claims 1 and 14 are allowable.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, applicants respectfully submit that all of the pending claims of the present application, Claims 1, 2, 4-15, 17-26, and 28-32, are allowable. If any questions remain, the Examiner is invited to contact applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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